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1 1. A method comprising:
2 detecting the coupling of a power sink to a power
3 source; and
4 sending a data signal between the source and the
5 sink to determine whether the source can provide power to
6 the sink.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including detecting the
2 coupling of a plurality of power sinks to the power source
3 and sending the data signal between the source and each
4 sink to determine whether the source can provide power to
5 each sink.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting the
2 coupling of a power sink to a power source includes
3 receiving a self-identifier packet at the source from the
4 sink.

1 4. The method of claim 1 including requesting a
2 power class indication from the sink.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including receiving a power
2 class indication from the sink.

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1 6. The method of claim 2 including determining the
2 available power of the source based on the power
3 requirements of a particular sink.

1 7. The method of claim 2 including determining
2 whether to supply power to a given sink based on the power
3 requirements of any sinks already coupled to said source
4 and the power capacity of said source.

1 8. The method of claim 2 including supplying
2 sufficient power for enumeration to a sink coupled to said
3 source.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein if the source is
2 unable to supply power to the sink, refusing to supply
3 power to said sink except for enumeration.

1 10. The method of claim 1 including sending an
2 identifier to said source that is used by the source to
3 determine whether the source can supply power to said sink.

1 11. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 detect the coupling of a power sink to a power
4 source; and

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5 send a data signal between the source and the
6 sink to determine whether the source can provide power to
7 the sink.

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 detect a coupling of a plurality of power sinks to the
4 power source and send the data signal between the source
5 and each sink to determine whether the source can provide
6 power to each sink.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 receive a self-identifier packet from the sink.

1 ~~14. The article of claim 11 further storing~~
2 ~~instructions that enable the processor-based system to~~
3 ~~request a power class indication from the sink.~~

1 15. The article of claim 14 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 ~~receive a power class indication from the sink.~~

1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to

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3 determine its available power based on the power
4 requirements of a sink.

1 17. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 determine whether to supply power to a given sink based on
4 the power requirements of sinks already coupled to the
5 source and the power capacity of said source.

1 18. The article of claim 12 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 supply sufficient power for enumeration to any sink coupled
4 to said source.

1 19. The article of claim 18 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system, if the
3 source is unable to apply power to the sink, to refuse to
4 supply power to the sink except for enumeration.

1 20. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to use
3 an identifier from a sink to determine whether the source
4 can supply power to the sink.

1 21. A system comprising:
2 a connection to a source of power;

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3 a plurality of ports to couple said system to
4 power consuming devices; and
5 a processor-based device which analyzes
6 information received from power consuming devices and
7 determines whether to supply power to said power consuming
8 devices through said ports.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
2 includes a fan out physical layer.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
2 includes an AC adapter.

1 24. The system of claim 21 wherein said processor-
2 based device determines whether to provide power to a power
3 consuming device is connected to said system.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said system
2 provides power to the power consuming device for
3 enumeration and then determines whether to provide
4 additional power to said power consuming device.

1 26. A system comprising:
2 power consuming circuitry;
3 a processor-based device; and

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4 a port connectable to receive power from a power
5 source and to exchange a data with said power source.

1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said system is a
2 mobile computer system.

1 28. The system of claim 26 wherein said system
2 includes a physical layer integrated with a link layer.

1 29. The system of claim 26 wherein said system
2 includes a data plug.

1 30. The system of claim 26 wherein said device
2 generates a self-ID packet that indicates the power needs
3 of said system.

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